

In this time when teachers are seldom given their proper respect and recognition, it is my honor and privilege to take time to speak from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor Mr. William Peters, a fifth grade teacher at the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston, MA. His dedication to his students must be recognized and held out as an example for others to follow.

Mr. Peters, you are in the thoughts and prayers of your many friends and colleagues and I am proud to join with them in wishing you a speedy recovery.

In closing, I am reminded of a quote, I believe it goes like this:

A Teacher affects eternity, for it is never known when their influence ends . . .

BOB KORTKAMP RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Bob Kortkamp on his retirement, April 1. In 1957 Bob began his career at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis as a machinist. In 1964 he was elected business representative of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9. Since 1978 he has served as secretary-treasurer of the St. Louis Labor Council.

Bob's interest and concern for working people has transcended his profession. He has consistently been involved with the larger community. The United Way, Mary Ryder Home, Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Blue Cross Corporate Assembly, Economic Planning Committee of St. Louis County, the Better Business Bureau and the St. Louis World Trade Center have been some of the beneficiaries of Bob's time and talents.

On a personal level, the most important thing that I can say about Bob is that he is a good man. He is caring about his world and the people who live in it. He is an exemplary citizen, one who sees a need and involves himself in fulfilling that need. Bob is a role-model for the younger members of the labor community in St. Louis—always ready to share his knowledge and eager to help.

I want to wish Bob and his lovely wife Betty a long and fulfilling retirement.

THE KOSOVA PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, along with Representative BEN GILMAN, chairman of the International Relations Committee, and Representative SUSAN MOLINARI.

For too long, ethnic Albanian citizens of Kosova, who comprise 90 percent of the province's population, have been dominated and repressed by Serbia. Kosovars voted overwhelmingly for the independence of their State in September 1990. They have chosen Ibrahim Rugova to be the first President of the

newly declared Republic of Kosova and Bujar Bukoshi to be its first Prime Minister. Serbia, however, has not seen fit to recognize these valid and legitimate acts of self-determination. Belgrade has prevented the new government from meeting in the Kosovar capital of Prishtina and strictly controls all media and public expressions of political views.

Today, the human rights situation in Kosova is grave and has worsened with the July 1993 expulsion by the Serbian authorities of international monitors. Ethnic Albanians are denied access to education, health care, and legal process solely on the basis of their ethnicity. More are dismissed from their jobs due to their Albanian heritage. Human rights groups from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to the OSCE and others document worsening humanitarian conditions, especially since the departure of international monitors. I strongly believe that the United States must demand the return of international observers and speak out more vociferously against the silent extension of ethnic cleansing to Kosova.

The security situation in Kosova is also very troubling. If Serbia escalates its aggressive behavior in Kosova, the Balkan conflict may expand into Macedonia, drawing in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and possibly Turkey. I support statements by the United States Government threatening a stern American response in the event of conflict in Kosova caused by Serbian action and believe that the administration should reiterate these warnings.

On the other hand, I deeply reject more recently policy changes by the administration. Last month, President Clinton offered to drop all sanctions against Serbia if it meets a specified list of conditions. Kosova was not among those conditions, even though the President specifically pledged to me in a January 4, 1995 letter that Belgrade would not be freed of sanctions until the situation in Kosova improves. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that letter be printed at this point in the RECORD:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, January 4, 1995.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ELIOT: Thank you for your December 2 letter regarding U.S. policy toward Kosova. I am pleased Dr. Rugova had a useful visit to the United States and know that his meetings with senior Administration officials were fruitful for both sides. While the United States does not support independence for Kosova, we are committed to restoring human and political rights to the people of Kosova, where Dr. Rugova plays an important and admirable role. His rejection of violence and his patience in the face of continued Serb repression demonstrate courage and foresight.

There are a large number of issues, including Kosova, that I believe must be addressed before Belgrade should be freed of UN sanctions and able to return to the international community. At the same time, we have clearly seen the utility of using limited sanctions suspension in return for helpful steps, such as closure of the Serbian border with Bosnia. Should Milosevic make further positive steps, we will need the flexibility of being able to consider the suspension of additional sanctions. As before, our decision of whether to support suspension of any sanctions will be made in close consultation with Congress.

Belgrade knows the seriousness of our resolve in Kosova, which I reaffirmed soon

after taking office and subsequently. With Congressional support, we have been able to maintain a steady flow of humanitarian assistance to Kosova. Our Embassy in Belgrade pursues an active schedule of visits there. We are working to bring the CSCE long-duration missions back and have welcomed Dr. Rugova's plan to open an LDK party office in Washington. I am aware of the strong arguments in favor of opening a USIS center in Pristina, but believe that we should not do so unless our safety and security concerns are resolved.

I am grateful to know to your deep interest in this important issue, and hope to work together with you and your colleagues to restore the rights of Kosova's ethnic Albanians.

Sincerely,

BILL.

With the President's recent policy changes, the bill we introduce today is even more important. The bill contains several sections. In the findings section, the abuses of civil and human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosova are specified. Next, a section detailing United States policy toward the Kosova issue is presented. Third, and most importantly, the bill conditions the lifting of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro upon specific improvements in Kosova, including:

Substantial progress toward the realization of a separate identity for Kosova and the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves, or the creation of an international protectorate for Kosova;

Substantial improvement in the human rights situation in Kosova;

International human rights observers return to Kosova; and

The elected government of Kosova is permitted to meet and carry out its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova.

Finally, the bill directs the administration to study policy options on Kosova, including the opening of a U.S.I.A. office in Prishtina.

Last year, Representative MOLINARI and I, as coauthors of the Albanian Issues Caucus, introduced a virtually identical piece of legislation. This year, I am proud to stand, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, with the chairman of the International Relations Committee who is the prime sponsor of the bill and a member of the Albanian Issues Caucus. H.R. 1360 is good for Kosova and the right policy for the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTES TO TWO YOUNG PILOTS; ANTHONY W. SHANKS AND VINCENT R. BREDING

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two young pilots who recently gave their lives in a mission of mercy. Anthony Warner Shanks, 36, and Vincent Randall Breding, 31, were shuttling two Orange County doctors to Mexico March 3, 1995, when their plane went down in a rugged area of Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Diego County.